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FLOOR DEBATE

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But I'm going to have a chance to talk about that handout, numerous others, when LB 305 comes. I feel it's going to be my job to educate this body, and anybody who listens in, on the wrongful conduct that the Omaha Public Schools have engaged in toward black people and our children, Latino people and their children, poor white people and their children. By the way, and many people may not know this but you'll see it in one of the handouts I'll give you, the school that's scoring absolutely the worst is a white school in a poor area. It's in east Omaha; it's called Sherman. For the last few years those test scores have plummeted, and they've got the same guy remaining as principal. He cannot figure what's wrong. Teachers cannot figure what's wrong. But since these are poor kids who live in a poor neighborhood, roads not paved, how important can they be? Some people living in trailers; how much value can their parents have? They're not going anywhere anyway. So why waste time in the public school system? Because, brothers and sisters, my belief is that the schools should be like justice supposedly is--no respecter of persons. When these children come into the classroom, they can be as poor as a church mouse, as raggedy as a jaybird, but they have a right to be treated like human beings, to be presented with a decent educational opportunity. And those children down there are not. They have been cheated for years; they're being cheated now. So it's not just black children. That's why I include the Latinos and the poor white people. If you're not of the right group and class, nobody cares. Who on this floor would talk about what I talk about if I didn't do it? Who would condemn the public schools for not doing their job? Nobody, because everybody is so interested in saying they're the best in the world, give them more money, give them what they want, don't talk about any problems. Well, your children don't face the problems, so I can see why you're happy. Yours are just as plump, as cheerful, and well cared for as can be, so you don't want to rock the boat. You do not want these other children to get a fair break. And I'm going to do all I can to make it uncomfortable for you, if I cannot persuade you that a different course must be pursued. And if the children that I care about, I care about all of them, but if the children that I particularly care about, because others in society don't, if they're not given the consideration they should get, I'm going to do what I can to bring your children into the same set